

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 4

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

Jan. 27, 2006

In brief

W-2s now available

W-2s are now available on the myPay Web site, <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. For more information on tax services, including the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, contact a unit tax advisor.

Annual Awards Banquet

The 2005 Team Tyndall Annual Awards Banquet is Feb 17. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations can be made through a unit first sergeant. The cost is \$20 for club members, \$23 for non-members.

The Book 2006

The public affairs office has copies of Airman magazine's "The Book 2006" available for distribution. The annual publication is filled with statistics and other information about active, guard and reserve Air Force units, personnel and equipment worldwide. To get copies, stop by the office in Bldg. 662, Ste. 129.

What's inside



Captain promotion list
... PAGE 6



HAWC means fit
... PAGE 14



Chrissy Cuttita

Pilot-in-training

Pavel Fisher, 13, son of Capt. Kenneth Fisher, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, gives a "thumbs up" from the window of a KC-135 Stratotanker Saturday here. Fisher participated in Operation Jr. Real Air Patriots Training On Readiness, a mock-deployment exercise for children of military members. For more, see Pages 10-11.

SFS transformation to affect total force

SENIOR AIRMAN J.G. BUZANOWSKI

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – As the Air Force continues to adapt for the future, changes to the security forces career field will affect the total force.

Brig. Gen. Robert Holmes, director of security forces and force protection, calls these transformations a "refocus" on how his people train and fight.

"We're not in the Cold War anymore; we have to alter our mentality and our practices for today's reality," the general said. "Because of the nature of the threat, our Airmen are fighting the global war on terror on the front lines, and we owe it to them to provide training, equipment and re-

sources to be effective."

Essentially security forces Airmen will focus on preparing for their warfighting mission at forward locations, as well as security at a fixed installation, General Holmes said.

As an example, he cited an Air Force Task Force that operated around Balad Air Base, Iraq, for two months last year. The unit patrolled the local towns and found weapons caches as well as individuals who posed a threat to the base.

"Our Airmen are going 'outside the wire' to conduct missions and are proving successful in keeping people safe," Gen. Holmes said. "Not only for the folks stationed at the base, but people who live and

work in the local area as well. This is very important in the present war on terror."

Security forces Airmen must learn counter-insurgency techniques and in doing so, they'll operate more effectively in joint operations, said Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air & space operations.

"We need to be prepared for a full-spectrum of threats against an air field," General Seip said. "That means taking more responsibility for defense of our mission, so our sister services can concentrate on their own tasks. We need to understand

● SEE FORCE PAGE 18



Lisa Norman

Dealing stud

Maj. Eric North, right, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, deals cards while his wife Sandy watches at 2006 Casino Night Jan. 20 at the Officers' Club. The 325th Services Squadron and the 325th Maintenance Group hosted the members-only event. For more on services and club events, see the Funshine News on Page 16.

ON THE STREET

325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron focus: What are you doing to prepare for your fitness test?



"I stick to a good diet year round. I also exercise each week and practice a few weeks before the test."

CAPT. LAWRENCE HORNE
General dentist



"I prepare mentally. I set a goal and try to outdo my previous test."

STAFF SGT. EDWARD BURGESS
Public Health specialist



"I increase the water I drink and get more sleep."

SENIOR AIRMAN MELISSA SANCHEZ
Family Practice administrator



"I do a lot of running. I run 6 to 8 miles a day to get ready for the test."

SENIOR AIRMAN AUSTIN WEEKS
Pharmacy technician

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The winner for the Jan. 20 "Identify This" is Melissa Rix, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron. She correctly guessed that it was a pine cone. Congratulations, Ms. Rix. Come claim your prize!

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*. For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

AOC lends support to hurricane relief, Super Bowl

COL. KEVIN BURMAN
601st Air Operations Center

There were many milestones to mark some of our nation’s most significant events, and the 601st Air Operations Center was there to support them. After experiencing a whirlwind of events this past year, the AOC has not slowed down.

When the world ushered in 2005, the AOC kicked it off by providing defense to the State of the Union Address, protecting what is valuable on the ground. Almost simultaneously, the AOC switched gears to prepare for the 2005 Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., where the Patriots trumped the Eagles. And if it was not enough to toggle planning between the two major national events, along came the long-awaited “Return to Flight” manned shuttle launch.

The AOC also helped bridge and strengthen international relations as host to unique visits from foreign friends – NATO and Russian – to address air de-

fense operations in light of emerging terrorist threats. A cross-flow and active dialogue also revealed to guests from the Mexican Armed Forces how business is conducted here to provide air defense and combat terrorism.

These high-profile events are standard among the AOC’s responsibilities, and air defense has long been its charter and the common denominator. Then came the hurricane season.

During Hurricane Katrina, the AOC experienced many firsts and surged to 24/7 operations in all divisions. From the onset, Team Tyndall provided much needed support during this 9/11 type of response to support the following:

- Development of a U.S. Northern Command Joint Air Operations Plan: The Joint Force Air Component commander approved a four-phase plan to execute Joint Task Force-Katrina, which included the commander’s guidance, intent, objectives and tasks. It also formed the blue-

print for future operations and was used for Hurricanes Rita and Wilma.

- Creation of a Joint Operations Area within the region along with its associated airspace control documents to deconflict airspace with military and civilian rescue organizations. A complete airspace control plan was coordinated with civilian authorities and implemented in more than 72 hours. In addition, a joint search and rescue center was established here to coordinate all rescue efforts.
- Deployment of a director of mobility forces here to coordinate airlift and medical evacuation flights in and out of the JOA. Manning in the air mobility division was augmented to sustain our forces.
- Deployment of a director of spaces forces here to bring associated connectivity to aid in rescue and recovery operations.
- Production and dissemination of an unclassified air tasking order to allow all

military and civilian agencies access to airspace control planning and deconfliction tools. The AOC published its largest ATO since 9/11 – nearly 500 total lines per day at the peak of activity.

This catastrophic natural disaster tested, educated and verified many AOC processes that it never saw before. Through it all, the personnel continued to perform the Operation Noble Eagle mission without skipping a beat. Once again, Team Tyndall and citizen soldiers alike stepped up as true professionals to support our communities throughout the Southeast United States.

The AOC direction is to build on these lessons learned to stand guard for the nation’s future and dynamic challenges. As our comrades continue to take the fight over the waters, the men and women of the 601st AOC, the Continental U.S. NORAD Region and Team Tyndall will continue the noble mission at home today and tomorrow into the new year.

Everyone on road responsible for motorcycle safety

CHIEF MASTER SGT. RALPH BROCK
325th Communications Squadron superintendent

On my way home from work recently, I witnessed an Airman pull a stunt on a motorcycle that literally brought him within a few feet of death or severe injury. Ironically, this happened on the wing’s safety day.

The Airman, who was wearing all the required protective gear, was stopped at a stop sign near the Felix Lake Shoppette. After traffic had cleared, the motorcyclist took off like a fighter jet in afterburner and nearly collided with a car that was merging into the lane.

I’m sure the driver of the car looked before merging, but he must not have expected the motorcycle to accelerate so quickly, or he just didn’t see the motorcyclist.

The weird thing is, if there had been an accident, the driver of the car likely would have received the citation, not the motorcyclist because the Airman didn’t technically break any laws. He accelerated quickly, but didn’t break the speed limit.

Witnessing this near-accident made me think of several key issues for automobile drivers and motorcycle riders alike, and it should warn all of us to try harder to stop these avoidable accidents.

Motorcycle riders: How often have you heard fellow riders exclaim, “The driver of the car said he didn’t see me,” after an accident? The driver could have been looking for another car, but didn’t see one, or the motorcycle rider could have been accelerating too quickly. Per-


haps we motorcycle riders need to share more of the responsibility for being seen. We should not only wear bright clothes and use our headlights, but we should also ride on the streets more like the surrounding traffic. In other words, like what the other drivers are expecting to see.

Car Drivers: Please keep in mind that a motorcycle is much different than a car. These high-powered machines can go from 0 to 55 mph in a couple of seconds. The driver of this near-accident failed to ensure there was nothing in the lane and almost cost someone dearly. Please take a hard look before pulling out or merging into

• SEE SAFETY PAGE 18

Action Line

Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Commissary | 283-4825 |
| Pass and I.D. | 283-4191 |
| Medical and Dental | 283-7515 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| MEO | 283-2739 |
| MPF | 283-2276 |
| SFS Desk Sgt. | 283-2254 |
| Services | 283-2501 |
| Legal | 283-4681 |
| Housing | 283-2036 |
| CDC | 283-4747 |
| Wing Safety | 283-4231 |
| Area Defense Counsel | 283-2911 |
| Finance | 283-4117 |
| Civil Engineer | 283-4949 |
| Civilian Personnel | 283-3203 |
| Base Information | 283-1113 |

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

The future of security forces in combat

COL. BRAD SPACY
U.S. AF Headquarters Security Forces and Force Protection

WASHINGTON – In the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2005, the first combat patrols of Operation Desert Safeside left the northern perimeter of Balad Air Base, Iraq, and began an aggressive 60-day combat operation to kill or capture insurgents attacking the air base. This was a historic mission for Air Force security forces. It was bold, put Airmen at risk and the stakes were high. We knew the results of Operations Desert Safeside would have far-reaching implications on the future of Air Force security forces as a credible ground combat force.

Operation Desert Safeside was carried out by the men and women of Task Force 1041. Specially built around a squadron of the 820th Security Forces Group, TF 1041 was led by a young security forces lieutenant colonel named Chris Bargery, chosen for his reputation as an innovative combat leader. TF 1041’s designated area of operations was one of the most violent areas in the region, roughly 10 kilometers wide and 6 deep, from the Balad perimeter

fence to the Tigris River. Throughout January and February 2005, Colonel Bargery led the men and women of TF 1041 in more than 500 combat missions that included raids, ambushes, and sniper operations aimed at taking back the initiative enjoyed by the enemy for more than two years.

TF 1041 did not disappoint. Operation Desert Safeside was by all accounts an overwhelming success.

However, TF 1041’s success on the battlefield had a larger effect than its immediate impact on the areas around Balad AB. TF 1041 also showed the world that Air Force security forces are an exceptionally capable ground combat force. This is a key point as security forces transform from a Cold War industrial security force to a relevant ground combat force for the joint warfight in the 21st Century.

Although security forces have claimed the base defense mission since the 1960s, it has always been considered an Army responsibility. In 1985, this was formalized when the Army became officially responsible for defense “outside the wire”

of a fixed base. It was an unwritten understanding that Air Force security forces would stay inside the base perimeter. This looked fine on paper, but faced numerous challenges in application, which endured through the Cold War and into the 1990s.

During Operation Desert Storm, the lines of battle were fairly well-defined with major combat at the “front” and air bases supposedly tucked safely in the rear area. The first widely publicized indications that the enemy was changing tactics was seen during the attack on Khobar Towers, but the full impact of these changes weren’t fully exposed until operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq our bases are not always in the rear and the enemy has attacked us from all sides with relative impunity, just like at Balad AB.

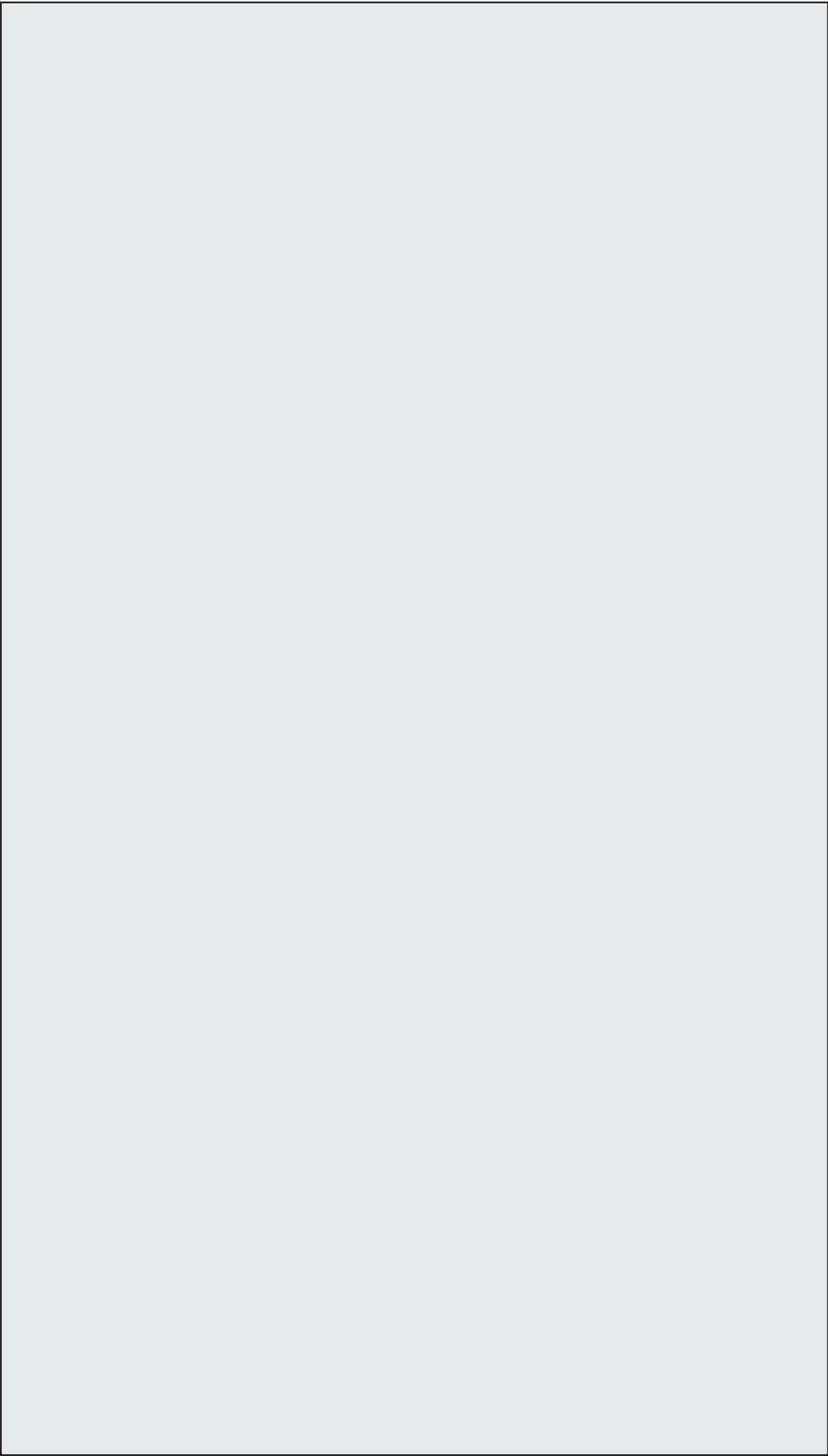
Security Forces Transformation will help the Air Force deliberately embrace the air base defense mission by addressing requirements in all areas, from doctrine to training and equipping, and even leadership preparation. Security Forces Transformation will also re-tool the orga-

nizational structure to ensure we have the number of troops available to take the fight to the enemy outside the wire. However, air base defense is a tough mission, and security forces can’t do it alone. Effective air base defense requires an integrated approach.

All Airmen must be trained and equipped to man “battle stations,” and leaders must be prepared to lead them in the ground fight. Security forces might be the ones outside the wire, but the whole Air Force team will have to ensure the base remains protected from penetrative attacks and insider threats, and be ready to respond when called upon.

I knew when I designed Operation Desert Safeside that the only way to stop the enemy from attacking our air bases was to go out and kill or capture him and take his weapons. I knew that security forces had the skills and courage to take on this mission and make it a success. Operation Desert Safeside provides a look at the future of Air Force ground combat, and Security Forces Transformation is the key to ensuring we’re all ready to protect and defend.





Congratulations 325th CONS!

(Editor's note: The 325th Contracting Squadron won six of 16 Air Education and Training Command contracting awards for 2005.)

AETC Best Contracting Squadron
325th CONS

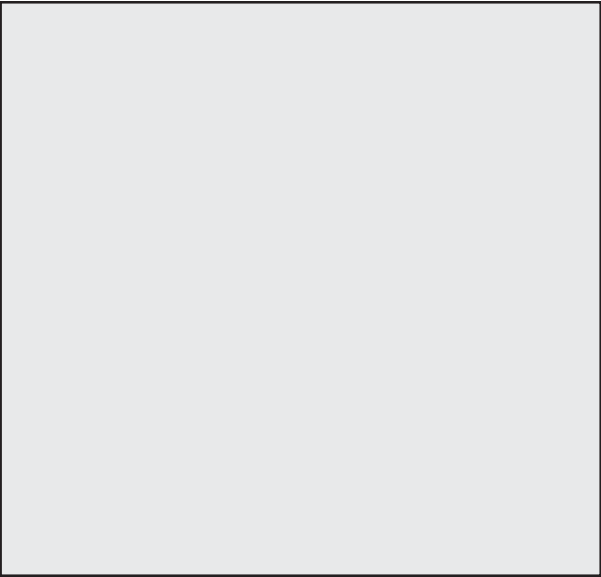
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Brian Stricker

Civilian of the Year
Mr. Ken Longstreet

Secretary of the Air Force Award
Lt. Col. Tim Reed

Contract Pricing Team of the Year
Air Force Contract Augmentation Program Team

Contracting Team of the Year
Hurricane Katrina Response Team



Congratulations to Tyndall's newest captain selects!

(Editor's note: The following first lieutenants were selected for promotion to captain.)

325th Fighter Wing

325th Air Control Squadron

Yoav Cuthbertson

325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Benjamin Strebeck

325th Maintenance Squadron

Laura Griggs

Edward Mangual

325th Operations Support Squadron

Rimpa Patel

1st Fighter Squadron

Douglas Mabry

95th Fighter Squadron

Blaine Jones

Michael Palik

Associate units

372nd Training Squadron/Det. 4

Christopher Reese

1st AF

Jim Mercado

28th Test Squadron/Det. 2

Jason Bingham

Air Force Element Flying Training Squadron (Pensacola)

Brian Davis

Mark Henderson

LEAD deadline fast approaching

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – Airmen looking for opportunities to enter the commissioned ranks can apply for the 2006 Leaders Encouraging Airmen Development program until Jan. 31.

LEAD is a program that allows commanders to nominate highly qualified Airmen for direct entry to the Air Force Academy or Preparatory School with the intention of an Air Force Academy appointment to follow.

Every year, appointments at the Academy and the Prep School are set aside specifically for Airmen. Currently, there are 85 vacancies at the Air Force Academy and 50 vacan-

cies at the Air Force Academy Prep School for Airmen who meet admission criteria for the 2006/2007 school year.

To be eligible, Airmen must be

ited to those with less than six years of service. The deadline for completing the AF Form 1786, Application for Appointment to USAFA for Enlisted Members, is Jan. 31.

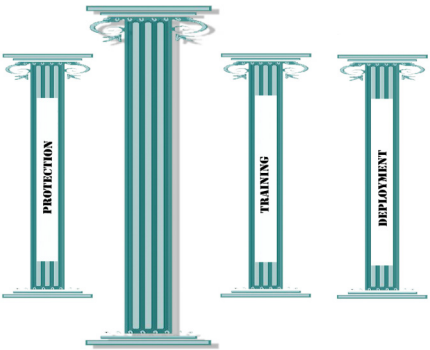
Commanders are encouraged to educate their qualified Airmen of this opportunity.

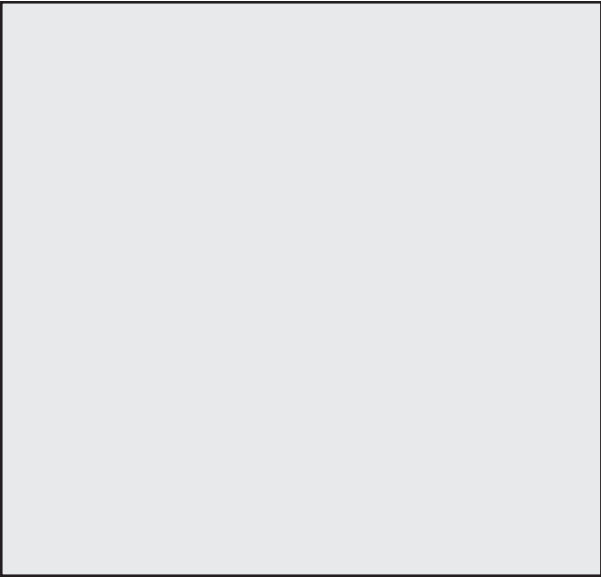
“The maturity and military experience of prior enlisted cadets make them ideal role models - both during their time as cadets and as commissioned officers,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael

Moseley, in a recent message to senior Air Force commanders.

More information about LEAD is available at base education offices.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT





FOD Finder of the Month



Airman Samuel Rendon, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, inspects the integrated drive generator oil level of an F-15 Eagle Jan. 20. Airman Rendon is the FOD Finder of the Month for December. He saw a 3 1/2-foot long piece of foam about to be sucked into an F-15's intake, and he intercepted it before it could do any damage. Congratulations, Airman Rendon!

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek



Golden Bolt Award



Chrissy Cuttita

Airman 1st Class Natalie Keiser, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, helps with unit clerical duties recently. She is the Golden Bolt winner for the month of December. Airman Keiser found the Golden Bolt while on a foreign object debris walk on the flightline. Congratulations, Airman Keiser!

UNDER

CONSTRUCTION

Phase II of construction at the Sabre Gate is underway. This portion of work will last approximately four months. This phase of construction allows for only outbound traffic flow through the Sabre Gate. Inbound access for military family housing residents and Youth Center, Golf Course and Marina Club employees will be through School Road Gate.

All inbound traffic through School Road Gate will be required to turn right onto DeJarnette Road, and all outbound traffic on Sabre Drive will not be permitted to turn right on DeJarnette Road. All other inbound traffic should use the main gate at Illinois Avenue.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Edward Okoegwale



Lisa Norman

Airman Okoegwale receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Okoegwale, 325th Maintenance Squadron. He completed all of his 5-level upgrade task qualifications four months ahead of schedule. He also donated 24 hours to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, raising \$700 for cancer patients and research.

- Duty title: Crew chief
- Time on station: Two years, six months
- Time in service: Three years
- Hometown: Fresno, Calif.
- Hobbies: Basketball
- Favorite movie: "Dave Chapelle's For What It's Worth"
- Favorite book: "Pimp" by Iceberg Slim
- Favorite thing about Tyndall: The people
- Pet peeves: Lazy people
- Goals: To make chief
- Proudest moment in the military: Finishing basic training

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

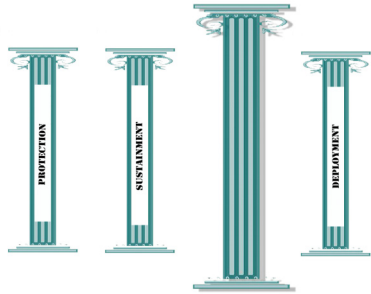
The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Anthony Randazzo, 325th Communications Squadron project manager.



Tattoos!

Are you an active-duty military member with tattoos? Contact the Gulf Defender at editor@tyndall.af.mil, and you may be featured in an upcoming story.

FORCE TRAINING



Getting real: ATC students go from sims to jets

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Cessna holds short at Runway 13, two F-22A Raptors are on final approach, a four-ship of F-15 Eagles just entered the pattern and a diverted C-130 Hercules is requesting clearance to land.

It seems like an overwhelming situation, but orchestrating air and taxiway traffic is the daily responsibility of students at the 325th Operations Support

Squadron’s air traffic control officer training program.

The program consists of three training areas: radar approach control, tower, and airfield management. After completing RAPCON frontload training, students transition from simulators to controlling live traffic.

“The simulators give us countless scenarios that we will encounter in position,” said 2nd Lt. Nicole Backes, 325th OSS RAPCON student. “They allow us to work through the scenarios with the benefit of being able to pause the simulator at any time to ask questions and discuss situations with our instructors.”

“The sim is the best thing we have to get students going,” said Timothy Hibbard, 325th OSS OTP instructor. “We walk them through the phraseology and the pace of traffic.”

Enlisted controllers also contribute to OTP training.

“With our manning levels so low, air traffic control trainees like myself supplement officers also in training with simulators and answer any questions they may have,” said Airman 1st Class Aaron Lawler, 325th OSS air traffic control apprentice.

The progression from computer-based simulation to controlling live traffic is a significant step for students.

“The most challenging aspect of training is not just learning air traffic

control regulations and instructions, but being able to apply them when controlling live traffic,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew McMurtry, 325th OSS airfield operations student.

Trainees undergo “frontload” academics in addition to simulator training, but “it takes time to build situational awareness,” said Airman Lawler. Every student reacts differently during their first experience controlling live traffic.

“I’m both excited and eager to begin controlling live traffic,” said Lieutenant Backes. “I feel that I’m fully prepared to begin controlling, but the stress during live training is greater, and that will be a new experience.”

The months spent studying academics, practicing simulators and monitoring local airspace provide students the experience they need to safely direct aircraft.

“Air traffic controllers have more responsibility, and are more involved with aircraft operations than I had thought before I got into the career field, said 2nd Lt. Matt Birkhimer, 325th OSS, RAPCON student. “Safety is most important, so all initial phases of air traffic control are conducted under the supervision of certified instructors.”

Keeping perspective is key.

“First and most important, is to relax and have fun,” said Mr. Hibbard. “You have to have an ego, and enjoy what you do.”

Training Spotlight

What do you remember most about your first debrief?

“The instructor pilot focused on areas of execution that were weak so I could learn from the decisions I made in the jet and become stronger tactically.”



1ST LT. ORION VAIL
95th Fighter Squadron B-Course Student



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell
Second Lts. Matt Birkhimer and Nicole Backes discuss air traffic control procedures as they monitor local aircraft through scopes in the RAPCON facility.

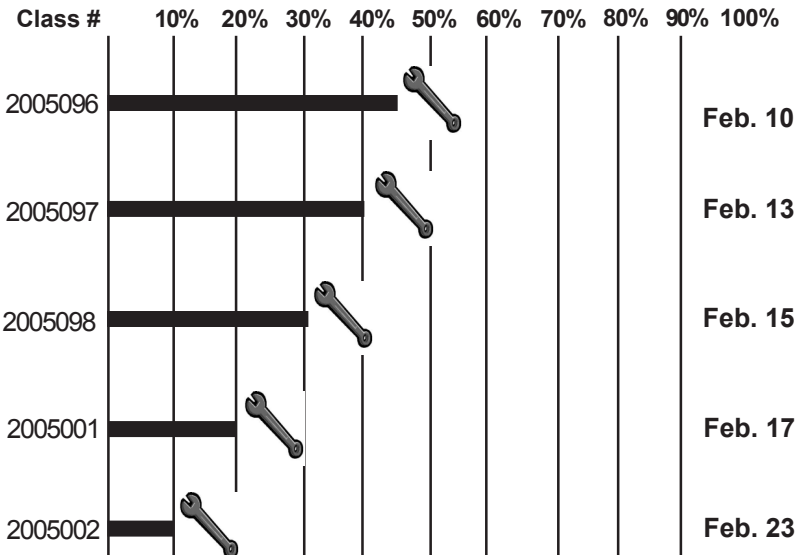


Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Final brief

Members of 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager Class 06005 receive a simulated tactical air refueling simulator brief Tuesday. The class graduated Wednesday. They were also selected as Warrior Class of the Month for December, partly for having zero test failures in December.

Mission Ready Airmen (F-15 Eagle crew chiefs) student progress chart





Above: Isaiah Lopez, left, and Ronin Davis manage one of the “obstacle course” challenges of hopping along in burlap bags.
Below: Trent Frey gets help donning his chemical warfare gear from Staff Sgt. Maria Martinex, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in charge of plans and programs.



OPERATION JR. R.

TYNDALL CHILDREN EXPERIENCE ‘DE

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For many, it’s an experience they’ve already been part of as mom or dad prepared for deployment – the processing, the goodbyes, the welcomes home. But this time they got to experience it first hand as participants in Operation Jr. R.A.P.T.O.R, or Real Air Patriots Training on Readiness. More than 190 youth from both the Child Development Center and Youth Center participated in the two-day program Friday and Saturday which was designed to give

them a hands-on look at the deployment process. Friday, events occurred at the CDC. From 2–4 p.m., groups of children went through a “processing line.” There, stations included stopping for a physical exam with a stethoscope; camouflage face painting; an “obstacle course;” a mobility bag – a small black or blue camouflage satchel of snacks; and getting their certificate of completion and dog tags. “We wanted to give these children an idea of what their parents go through at a level they can understand,” said Joe McLeer, CDC training and curriculum specialist. Blanca McCann, a volunteer, said the project was a

base-wide effort and attributed the project’s success to everyone’s hard work. “We wanted to pull everyone together to get as much variety as possible so it wouldn’t be boring for the kids, to give them a taste of the deployment process but in a fun way. It also helps them get closer to their parents because they better understand what their parents go through.” Children 6 to 15 met at the Youth Center Saturday. Their day began at 8:30 a.m. as they checked in with their orders, and proceeded through a mobility line, ensuring they met all appropriate requirements prior to their departure. Tech. Sgt. Mark Thames, 325th Maintenance Squadron, had two children involved, Cory and Kyle. “I told them about it and they were excited,” he said. “They wanted to do what dad has to do. I think it’s a really good experience.” Almost all the participants dressed for the part as well, from kiddie-size uniforms to proudly wearing pieces of their parents’ uniform. After their initial in-processing, students joined their assigned groups and formed up for some pre-briefings and physical training. Also part of their in processing however, was a voluntary station to drop a treasured personal item in a cooler, also known as a “loved one’s hotel.” The item would remain behind. According to Mrs. McCann, that part helped participants understand the feelings of separation. Inside one “hotel” was a faded football, a doll, some balls and a well-worn stuffed pink elephant. Then, when they were all called to attention for the arrival of Brig. Gen. Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, the collective snap of their heels resonated throughout the Youth Center, literally exemplifying their spirit of involvement. “This is just so neat and perfect,” said General Egginton. “We owe so

much to our every bit as deployment chance to e collectively During h all look gr riors in her to get all c thank you. Following the 325th ron canine the young w demonstrat “He look dynamite Clocksin. “I’m having After act ter, the you 4. On site th fare gear de ordnance d onstrations, play and in Ready to E There, I joying the l perience.

McKenna E at the phys

A.P.T.O.R.:

PLOYMENT' FIRST HAND

for children, they sacrifice as much as we do during deployments and this gives us a chance to express our appreciation for them.”

During the briefing, he said, “You are here today and we wanted to bring you together and say thank you.”

Following the general’s remarks, the Security Forces Squadron’s handlers section treated the young warriors to a working dog demonstration.

“I liked the dog demo. It was fun.”

Activities at the Youth Center included a “deployed” to Hangar tour where there were chemical warfare demonstrations, explosive disposal equipment demonstrations, an F-15 Eagle static display, and instructions about Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) to include samples.

Danika Plotkin was enjoying the morning portion of the ex-

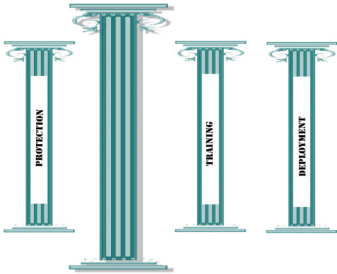
“It’s great,” she said. “I’m learning that military people help other people who don’t have many things. So far, I think I would like to be in the Air Force. I think it would be really cool to help other people.”

Additionally, the youth toured two transient aircraft, a KC-135 Stratotanker and a C-130 Hercules, brought in specifically for the project to see some of the transportation modes used during deployments.

Finally, the day culminated in their “homecoming,” that afternoon as they returned to the Youth Center to parents cheering and waving flags.

“It’s fun to get to see what parents go through in a deployment,” said Trent Frey, a participant. “It was heavy and exhausting putting on the chemical gear. It’s difficult but it’s about defending our country and being free.”

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Chrissy Cutlita

Above: Trent Frey pours canteen water into the Meal, Ready to Eat heat container with the help of Senior Airman Jon Summer, 325th Services Squadron. Below: Sienna Woods, 7, gets a big welcome-back hug from her parents Angie and Staff Sgt. Frank Woods, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron.



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

Brandon is checked out by Staff Sgt. Lisa Gamble, an aerospace medical technician, during a physical exam stop of the deployment line at the Child Development Center.



Chrissy Cutlita

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking a new RAO director and volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil or call 283-2737.

AADD volunteers

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. The hours of operations are 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers must be E-1s through E-4s. Those interested in volunteering can call 867-0220, or e-mail Airman 1st Class Brandon Krueger at brandon.krueger@tyndall.af.mil.

Survivor Benefit Plan

SBP is a program that protects the spouses of retired military members in the event of death. Retirement pay stops on the date of death. Only through SBP can a spouse continue to receive a portion of that pay. For more information call Alicia Gibbons, Tyndall's SBP counselor, at 283-8392.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is an orientation program that helps Air Force spouses learn more about the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and available resources and services. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4205.

Clinic enrollments

The Tyndall Clinic is open to new enrollments to family practice, internal medicine and pediatrics. Flight medicine enrollment consists of flyers, special operational personnel and their dependents. Tricare Prime patients enrolling with family practice, internal medicine or pediatric providers at Tyndall Clinic should report to the Tricare Service Center next to the main clinic pharmacy, or go online to www.humana-



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

military.com. For more information, call Tricare Operations and Patient Administration at 283-7331.

AFJROTC jobs

Air Force Junior ROTC is opening 75 new units at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. There will be 150 positions open for retired or soon-to-be retired officers and NCOs in high schools throughout the nation. For more information, call (866) 235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300. The DSN number is 493-5275 or 5300. For a list of current openings, go to www.afots.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp. Positions at new units are now posted.

Mentor program

Tyndall Elementary School needs volunteers for the Mentor Program. Mentors work with children at the school for 30 minutes to one hour weekly. For information, call Linda Wiley at 286-6481.

Gulf Coast Community College

The GCCC Tyndall Center placement test is at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Also, the GCCC Foundation Scholarship for the 2006/2007 Academic Year is now available and must be turned in by March 1. Applications are available at the Tyndall Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

NASCAR at Tyndall

The Tide Racing Car visits the Tyndall Commissary from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday. For more information, call 283-4825.

ASMC/NCMA symposium

The Gulf Coast Chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers and the Northwest Florida Chapter of the National Contract Management Association hosts their annual training event March 3 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The symposium includes seminars covering duty in the Middle East, 2005/2006 taxes, health and wellness, Base Realignment and Closure, and functional topics. Registration fee is \$115 for ASMC/NCMA members, \$145 for non-members. Registration is open until Feb. 17. Late fees apply after this period. Register online at www.gulfcoastasmc.org/pds2006/pds_info.htm.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 for more information.

Thrift Shop hours

Normal operating hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, with consignments from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.

Tax time

Second Lt. Shawntara Govan, Air Force Research Laboratory, and Staff Sgt. Eric Williams, 325th Medical Support Squadron, look up computerized tax forms at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center in the Marsh Room of the Community Activity Center. Appointments are now available by calling 283-9164, 9165 or 9166.

**Tyndall Chapel Schedule****Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

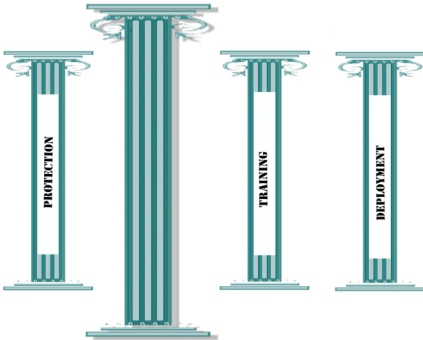
Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)



FORCE SUSTAINMENT



| Intramural Sports Standings | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|------------|---|---|
| Basketball | | | | | |
| Team | W | L | Team | W | L |
| ACS | 10 | 0 | SFS | 3 | 5 |
| 95th FS | 7 | 1 | COMM | 3 | 7 |
| AMXS 3 | 6 | 1 | SVS | 2 | 6 |
| AMXS 1 | 7 | 2 | 83rd FWS | 2 | 7 |
| AMXS 2 | 6 | 3 | AFRL | 2 | 7 |
| OSS | 6 | 3 | 601st EAOG | 1 | 7 |
| MXS | 4 | 2 | CES | 0 | 8 |

| Bowling | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------------|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Team | W | L |
| MXS - Phase | 96 | 56 | AFCEA | 76 | 76 |
| TEST | 94 | 58 | CS 1 | 76 | 76 |
| SFS | 94 | 58 | AMMO | 74 | 78 |
| 1st AMU 3 | 93 | 59 | CONS | 73 | 79 |
| MXS 1 | 90 | 62 | 83rd FWS 2 | 72 | 80 |
| 601st 2 | 90 | 62 | 53rd WEG | 70 | 82 |
| IAM | 90 | 62 | SVS | 67 | 85 |
| 601st 1 | 88 | 64 | OSS | 66 | 86 |
| MSS 2 | 88 | 64 | ACS 2 | 66 | 86 |
| 1st AMU 1 | 85 | 67 | RED HORSE | 62 | 90 |
| MSS 1 | 84 | 68 | MOS | 61 | 91 |
| AMXS | 84 | 68 | ACS 1 | 58 | 94 |
| NCOA | 82 | 70 | CS 2 | 58 | 94 |
| 83rd FWS 1 | 80 | 72 | MDG | 56 | 96 |
| CES | 78 | 74 | 1 FS | 52 | 100 |
| 1st AMU 2 | 77 | 75 | AAFES | 44 | 108 |

MOS, CONS in Super Prog I face-off

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR
From home of Super Bowl champs Seattle

Well, looks like I was right again. Seattle and Pittsburgh will be facing off Feb. 5 in Detroit for Super Bowl XL. Sometimes it's hard being this good.

But apparently I wasn't good enough. It was the 325th MOS and CONS who made all the right decisions, and now they will be going head-to-head in Super Prog I.

"We followed a road much like my beloved Steelers," said Brent Goe, 325th CONS prognosticator. "We hit a rough patch in the middle of the season that cemented us in the middle of the pack. We snuck into the play-offs with a late season surge and have been on a roll ever since."

Is this "roll" going to make them champions?

"I don't see any reason why things will change for Super Prog I," Goe said. "We'll just continue to ride the bus to Super Prog glory."

The CONS commander explained how Goe climbed to the top.

"In (the contracting career field), we experience rapidly changing re-

quirements, frequent changes in personnel and high performance expectations from our leadership, just like the NFL," said Tim Reed. "Goe uses these finally honed skills to think like an NFL player and to predict the outcome with uncanny accuracy."

The assurance of the CONS team is all well and good, but the 325th MOS picker believes they wouldn't have made it this far without his help.

"I had to go into CONS a couple of years ago and fix up their training program," said Jalal Razick. "I guess I did a good job, because I trained them on how to make 'wise choices.'"

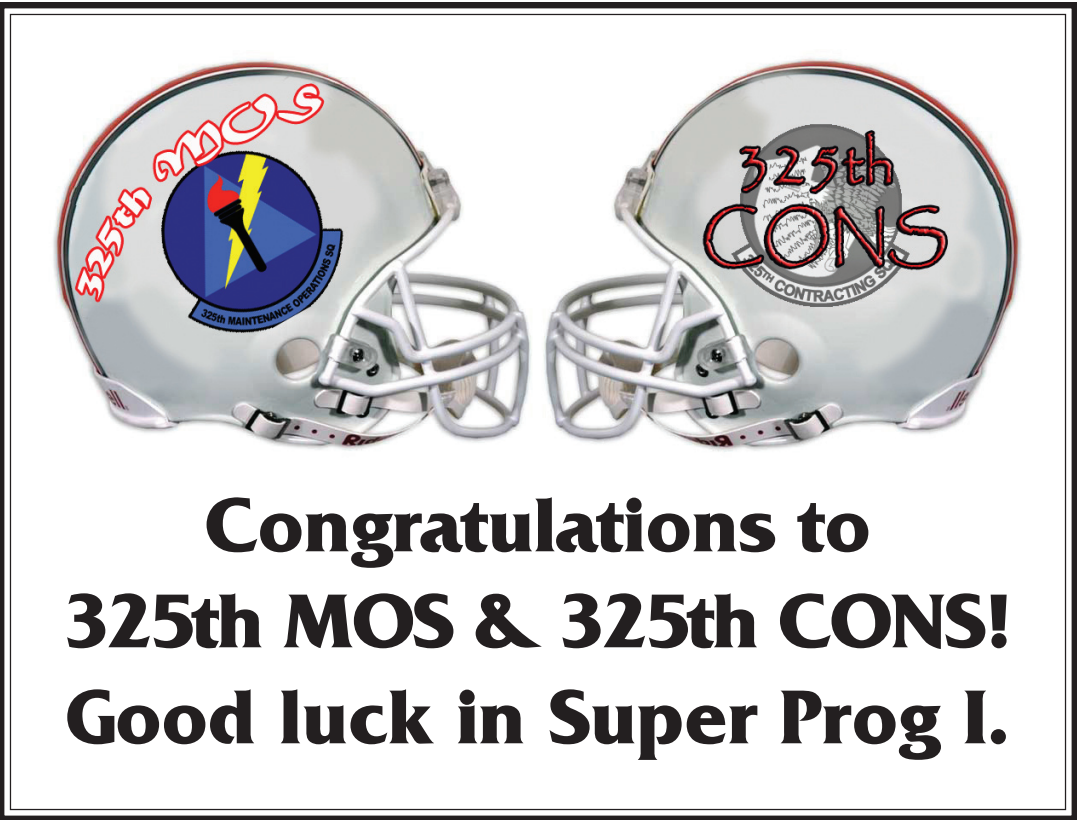
MOS has been in the Top 3 since Week 1, said Razick, and all previous trash talking by other squadrons has only bolstered his confidence in a win for his team.

"I remember one week, the individual who was picking for AMXS was ahead of MOS and other squadrons by six games and said, 'Everyone should quit sending in their picks. It's all over but the crying.' What happened

to him? He choked and is nowhere to be found."

In the words of Glenn Frey, the heat is on!

Now, lets get out there and watch some football!



HAWC: Helping Tyndall rejuvenate resolutions

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

If you are losing motivation to maintain your New Year's resolution of adopting a healthier lifestyle, don't give up just yet. The Health and Wellness Center hosts a variety of opportunities for you to regain momentum.

"We have highly qualified staff including an exercise physiologist, two active-duty diet technicians, a registered dietician, and an information manager to run our programs," said Senior Master Sgt. Ron Hagen, HAWC diet technician. "This allows us to offer a variety of classes at more convenient times throughout the day," he said.

Most programs and classes are open to dependents, spouses and retirees, said Sergeant Hagen.

On Feb. 9, the HAWC will be hosting Commissary tours to promote the Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension program. The tours will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

"DASH is a program formulated to abate health problems associated with diets high in sodium and fat," said Rita Miller, HAWC registered dietician. "The regimen promotes a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products."

Commissary tours will identify healthy food choices and offer information on how to prepare balanced meals.

Free blood pressure checks will also be conducted throughout the day, said Ms. Miller.

"On Feb. 28, we will be hosting the first-ever 'Save Your Life' campaign," said Dean Fazzio, HAWC exercise physiologist and campaign organizer.

Save Your Life is a weight loss challenge for active-duty personnel with a body mass index of 30 or greater. A 5K run and one and a half-mile walk will kick-off the campaign. The run will start and end at the Fitness Center, and medical staff will be conducting free blood-pressure checks before the event.

In addition to sponsoring promotional events, the HAWC maintains an instructional gym for training purposes, multiple classrooms and a fully equipped kitchen where workshops are offered on topics ranging from healthy food preparation to preventing hypertension.

"Our health promotion programs include diabetes management, hypertension and tobacco cessation classes," said Sgt. Hagen. "We also offer courses on lowering your cholesterol, weight management, and healthy living."

The HAWC also has a massage therapist on site. Appointments can be made through the Fitness Center and people can call in advance to use the 'relaxation chair' during the day, he said.

Many people resolve to lead a healthier lifestyle, but



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Dean Fazzio counts off teams during a Fitness Improvement Program class Tuesday.

often lose motivation and return to unhealthy habits.

"The health programs offered by the HAWC are intended to make healthy living more convenient and enjoyable," said Tonya Nash, HAWC health education program manager. "We encourage people to make exercise a family event."

For more information, contact the HAWC at 283-3826. Hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tigers sweep Eagles in SEMAC basketball

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team, 14-6 conference, took two victories from the visiting Eagles of Eglin AFB, Fla., in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference play Saturday and Sunday and remained in a tie for first place with the Moody Knights.

In Saturday's game, the two squads battled back and forth throughout the first half as Tyndall enjoyed a 34-29 lead at the intermission. In the second half, the Tigers extended their lead to as may as 15 points, and enjoyed a double digit lead for the majority of the half as they denied Eglin's attempts to rally. Tyndall finished up the game 81-71.

Elvin Walker paced the Tigers in scoring with a game high 27 points, followed by Anthony Showers with 20 points and Melvin Smith and Ryan Cunningham with 10 points each. Markus Manuel and Lance Clark paced the Tigers in rebounding with 13 and 10 respectively, and Smith led in assists with six.

Sunday's game saw the two teams

again play a hard fought first half. Eglin opened up a 10 point lead, 33-23 with 3:48 remaining in the half, only to see the Tigers go on an 8-0 run to trim their deficit to two points, 33-31 at the intermission.

In the second half, the two teams continued to play tough defense as they swapped the lead back and forth with neither team leading by more than six points. Tyndall made clutch free throws down the stretch to secure the victory, 78-72.

Elvin Walker led the Tigers in scoring with a game high 24 points, followed by Anthony Showers with 20 and Marqus Armour with 10. Armour also claimed team rebounding honors with 10 and Melvin Smith led in assists with six.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers will travel to Jacksonville this weekend to face the Hurricanes and Lady Hurricanes of Naval Station Mayport, Jacksonville, Fla.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)

PT gear guidance updated

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force Uniform Board established an Oct. 1, 2006 mandatory wear date for unit fitness activities and released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the physical training uniform for personal workouts.

Airmen may wear the PTU during personal workouts given the following conditions:

- T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in;
- jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes;
- black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts;
- white socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized;

- any athletic shoes may be worn;
- safety items such as reflective belts, cam- elbacks and fannypacks are authorized;
- hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements;
- headphones are still authorized;
- bandanas and other similar head scarves are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver; and
- saluting is not required.

All Airmen must comply with tattoo and jewelry standards as stated in Air Force Instruction 36-2903 "Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel."

Female Airmen exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories

normally required to meet uniform standards.

Also, there is no mandated maternity PTU while participating in formations or unit activities.

The PTU was created to support unit cohesion and present a professional, standardized image. Commanders will determine what uniform items, which consist of a jacket, pants, shorts and T-shirt, Airmen will wear during unit fitness events.

The uniform board is working on optional items including a long-sleeve shirt, sweatshirt and another style of running shorts.

For more information, Airmen should contact their commander's support staff, military personnel flight or personnel office at deployed locations.

Female Airmen exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories

Female Airmen exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories

Female Airmen exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories

Mortuary affairs program brings loved ones closure, with honors

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's one of the few services that, although needed, no one really looks forward to having to use it.

The mortuary affairs program, which is run by the services squadron, deals with the deaths of active-duty and retired Airmen.

The 325th Services Squadron readiness flight works with the base mortuary affairs officer, Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander, to run a program that is both compassionate and efficient. But the job can be taxing on those Airmen taking on the responsibility.

"The job can be one of the hardest to do," said Tech Sgt. Brian Denny, 325th SVS. "Some people can't handle it. We'll only take individuals who are competent, professional and can handle reviewing remains."

Professionalism especially comes into play when mortuary affairs personnel must speak with the next of kin.

After an Air Force member's death, the mortuary affairs officer and NCO in charge must go to the next of kin, or the person most closely related to the individual.

"We will inform the family about their benefits and help them make decisions such as selecting a casket," said Sergeant Denny. "We also inform the family about what type of funeral honors the military member is entitled to."

Once the family has decided on the funeral arrangements, mortuary affairs works with the contracted funeral home to make sure they take care of the family's requests. After that, the Honor Guard puts together the military honors to be presented at the service.

The process, though, is a little different when it comes to field mortuary operations, said Master Sgt. Kenneth Young, 325th SVS. Instead of working with families and funeral homes, they prepare fallen military members for their voyage home.

"In the field, mortuary affairs' job is to receive the body, record their 'believed-to-be' information and then ship the remains to the port mortuary in Dover AFB, Del.," said Sergeant Young.

It is at Dover that doctors will officially identify

the body, he said. "We don't know who the person is," said the sergeant. "Even if they have their name tape on their uniform, it doesn't necessarily mean it's them. And we're not forensic experts."

Although dealing with the deceased can be a hard job, sometimes it is rewarding.

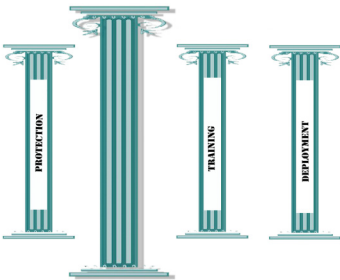
"I was the readiness NCO in charge at Hickam, AFB, Hawaii, for two and a half years and ran the mortuary affairs program," said Sergeant Denny. "We received remains from Korea and Vietnam for the Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii."

CILHI identifies deceased military members in groups of remains, he said. They do this through a variety of methods including DNA testing and dental records. As soon as the remains were identified, family members would be contacted and flown to Hawaii to escort their loved one home.

"This is the hardest job to do mentally, but it can be the most rewarding, too," said the sergeant. "We get to make sure they are given the proper honors that they deserve."

"We're helping families bring closure to a loved one," said Sergeant Young. "We're letting the family know that we're there for them. Just being a part of that process makes it all worthwhile."

FORCE SUSTAINMENT





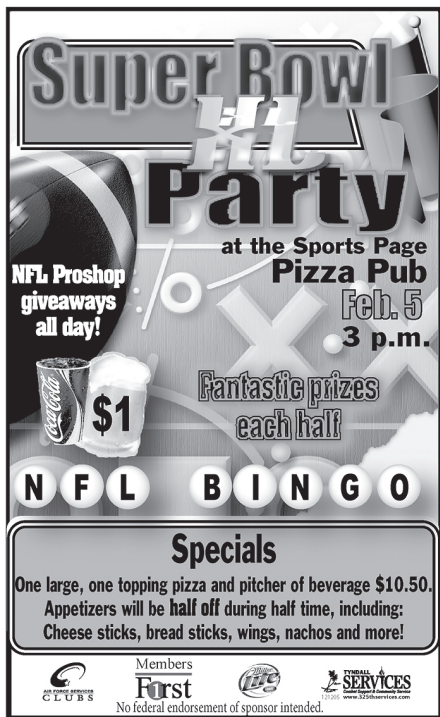
Funshine NEWS



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www.325thservices.com



Super Bowl Party

at the Sports Page
Pizza Pub
Feb. 5
3 p.m.

NFL Proshop
giveaways
all day!

Fantastic prizes
each half

\$1

NFL BINGO

Specials
One large, one topping pizza and pitcher of beverage \$10.50.
Appetizers will be half off during half time, including:
Cheese sticks, bread sticks, wings, nachos and more!

Members
Forst
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS




Checkertail Wing SWING

25 February 2006
Hangar 5

Live Band,
Great Food,
& Dancing

TICKETS
available from
Squadron
Representative

Photo Courtesy
Max Haines

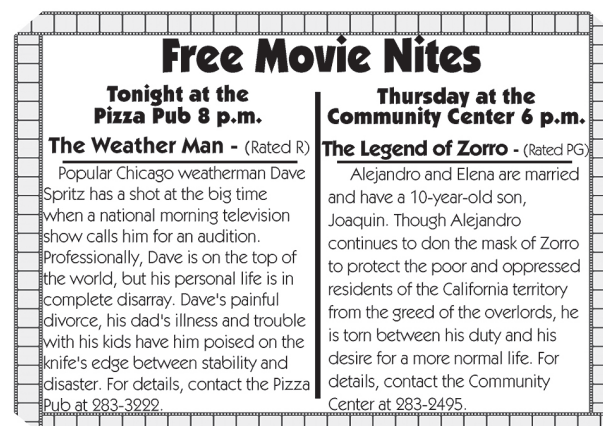


Valentine's Delivery

Don't forget your loved ones on this special day. Have their flowers delivered or surprise that special someone yourself. Order your floral arrangement today.

For details, contact the Community Center at 283-2495.

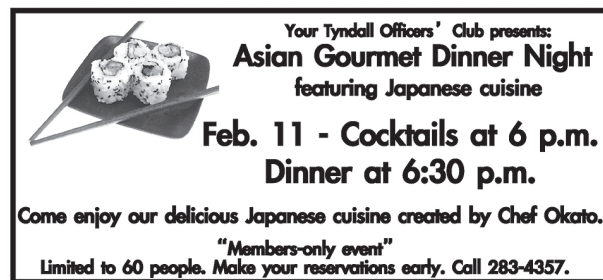
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Free Movie Nites

Tonight at the Pizza Pub 8 p.m.
The Weather Man - (Rated R)
Popular Chicago weatherman Dave Spritz has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition. Professionally, Dave is on the top of the world, but his personal life is in complete disarray. Dave's painful divorce, his dad's illness and trouble with his kids have him poised on the knife's edge between stability and disaster. For details, contact the Pizza Pub at 283-3992.

Thursday at the Community Center 6 p.m.
The Legend of Zorro - (Rated PG)
Alejandro and Elena are married and have a 10-year-old son, Joaquin. Though Alejandro continues to don the mask of Zorro to protect the poor and oppressed residents of the California territory from the greed of the overlords, he is torn between his duty and his desire for a more normal life. For details, contact the Community Center at 283-2495.



Your Tyndall Officers' Club presents:
Asian Gourmet Dinner Night
featuring Japanese cuisine

Feb. 11 - Cocktails at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Come enjoy our delicious Japanese cuisine created by Chef Okato.

"Members-only event"
Limited to 60 people. Make your reservations early. Call 283-4357.

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)
(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf

Did the front page grab your Yes ☐ No ☐
attention?

Do you feel there is a good mix of Yes ☐ No ☐
local, command and Air Force-level
news?

Do the photos encourage you to Yes ☐ No ☐
read accompanied articles?

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read
and follow? ☐ ☐

What did you find most interesting
in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the
paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____

Youth Center offers fun, safe recreation

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editors note: This is the second of a four-part series on the Tyndall Youth Center.)

It may seem that the action never ends because once the school-age program is finished at the Youth Center, open recreation begins.

At this time, children can choose an activity they would like to do in the center. Whether it is video games, pool, the Internet or any of the planned activities offered each day, such as cooking, crafts or physical activity, there is always something to do.

“We provide a safe environment where children can foster new friendships while having fun,” said Alma Hooks, Youth Center programs director. “With a fully-trained staff and modern facility, the Youth Center offers care in a lively environment that will interest kids and reassure parents.”

The National Boys and Girls Clubs of America-affiliated program starts at 4 p.m.

on weekdays, except Wednesday. During this time, there are plenty of planned activities: Tuesdays there is usually something to bake in the snack bar; Thursdays there are arts and crafts; and Fridays are special event nights with bingo, skating, or movies. On Saturdays, open recreation is held 2 –6 p.m.

Megan Cowden said she and her sister, Molly, come to open recreation often after she does her homework at home.

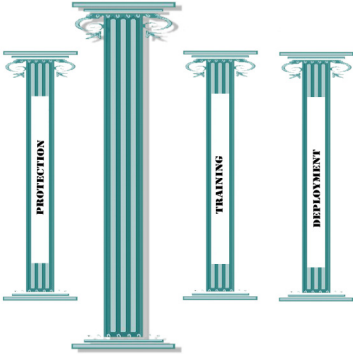
“I like it because I get to play pool, and I like doing cartwheels and handstands in the gym,” said Cowden.

The fun isn’t just for the kids. Youth Center staff participate in the activities while they monitor the children.

“I enjoy working with children and these children are great,” said Stacie Bedell, Youth Center recreation assistant who plans the activities. “Children learn responsibility by using a membership card to check out equipment and move about the center.”

Members purchase cards for either \$15 every three months or \$30 for the year.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Non-members can pay \$2.50 for an open recreation session.

Parents can get involved too by attending parent advisory board meetings or volunteering at the center.

“We try to provide at least quarterly a family event to include the entire family,” said Ms. Hooks. “Plans are underway now for our first family event of 2006 with Big Bunny Egg Hunt Apr. 15. Our goal is to stuff 15,000 plastic eggs full of candy, toys and prize coupons.”

Along with offering fun activities, the program also provides life skill classes such as a two-day Tyndall Babysitting Course for youth ages 11 to 15 to learn what it takes to be a super babysitter.

“Upon completion of the course the youth’s name is added to our list of certified babysitters which is provided to parents who are looking for babysitters,” said Ms. Hooks.

The next baby-sitting course is scheduled for March 27 and 28.

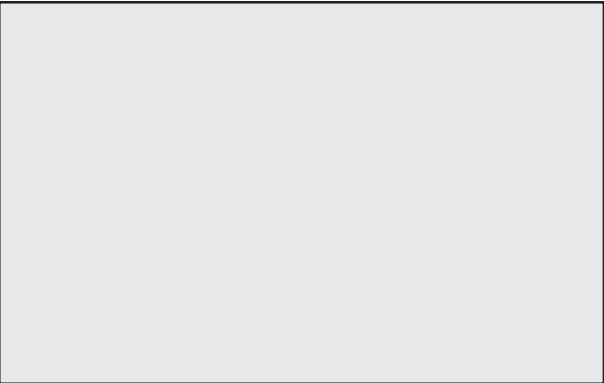
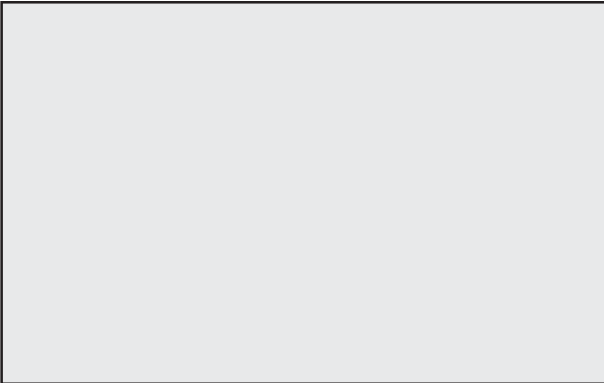
The center also provides Home Alone classes for youth ages 10 and older whose parents feel they are able to leave them home for a few hours alone. The class covers safety tips, responsibilities of being home alone, and run through a variety of scenarios of possible events that could happen while being at home.

The Youth Center’s calendar is full of events. For more information call them at 283-4366.



Chrissy Cuttita

Jordan McNeal takes a shot at the pool table while his younger brother, Brandon, waits his turn at the Youth Center.



● **FROM FORCE PAGE 1** how they operate, so we're working closely with the Army to identify additional ways to train our Airmen."

While security forces will focus more on their warfighting competencies, Air Force leaders are reviewing several options for installation protection duties, like entry control, at home stations. Plans call for more DOD civilians, greater affiliation with Guard and Reserve and better use of technologies, General Holmes said.

The changes to the security forces career field will present the opportunity for other Airman to participate in installation security. While that doesn't necessarily mean everyone will have a rotation checking identifica-

tion cards at a gate, it does mean more comprehensive training, awareness and capability to respond and participate, he said.

"Will every Airman be a cop? No. But every Airman will be a warrior," General Holmes said. "Every Airman needs to be trained in basic force protection skills and must be prepared to defend an air base and themselves in the event of an attack. This means more than just qualifying with a weapon. We want Airmen to be comfortable with their duty weapon and to develop their shooting skills."

While definitive plans have not been finalized, General Holmes also said one of the transformation goals is bringing security forces Airmen back in step with standard Air

Force 120-day deployments.

"Right now our folks are going out for 179-day rotations," he said. "Our Airmen need time to reconstitute and train, so it's important to get them in line with the rest of the Air Force. We aim to do just that."

Overall, General Holmes said the changes would make security forces Airmen more effective and relevant to Air Force needs in the face of the current changing nature of warfare.

"We want to make our Airmen more proficient, and to do that, we need to adapt," Gen. Holmes said. "We're going to change our training, our tactics and our procedures and the Air Force will be better for it."

● **FROM SAFETY PAGE 3**

a lane; most motorcycles have their headlight on.

Everyone: The motorcycle rider had all of his required reflective and protective gear on, but it didn't help in this scenario. He was definitely showing off and ironically offered the excuse, "I was blowing the soot out of my poorly running machine," like one of the victims featured in the safety day's motorcycle catastrophes slideshow.

My point is the driver didn't see the rider, not because the rider wasn't visible, but because he accelerated much faster than cars normally do.

Our people are our number one asset. It is imperative that we learn to prevent unnecessary death or injury. Please use this experience to educate drivers and motorcyclists alike. When an Airman is lying on the ground dead, it really doesn't matter who's at fault.

